SPORTS / A22

Dottie Ardina snares 3rd Junior World title; Miggy, Bernice fall short

WORLD / A19

Outpouring of tributes on Mandela for his 90th birthday

NEWS / A2

MILF asks to postpone ARMM elections

2BU / F1

'Sassa,' the label that's on the path to ready-to-wear stardom

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, July 19, 2008 • Vol. 23 / No. 225 • website: www.inquirer.net

Gas prices going up again this weekend

By Abigail L. Ho

MOTORISTS TO WHOM PUMP PRICE hikes have become weekly occurrences are in for a surprise this weekend as oil companies are set to increase the prices of diesel by P3 a liter—the single biggest increase for any fuel this year—kerosene by P1.50 a liter and gasoline by P1 a liter.

None of the oil companies had made any announcement of a price increase as of press time yesterday.

But an industry source said that tode-

GAS PRICES A8

Philippine passports go hi-tech starting October

By Tarra Quismundo

AFTER THE MACHINE-readable passport comes now the "best passport you can have"—electronic passport equipped with tamper-proof ei-

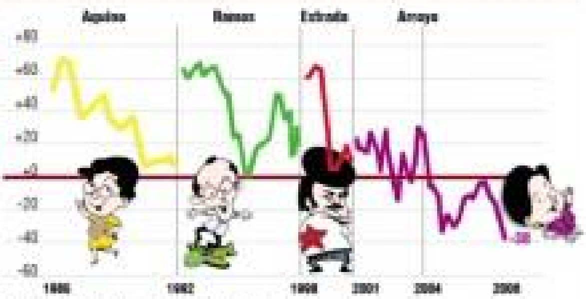
PHILIPPINE/ A15





PHILIPPINE GRAFFITI The problem is obvious. It's the economy, the poverty, the disconnect between the high and mighty and the lowly and powerless. And so on and so forth. But solutions are not anywhere in the horizon of gathering darkness.

Net satisfaction ratings of RP Presidents since 1986



* Net rating = % Satisfied minus % Dissatisfied correctly rounded
Survey data: Social Weather Stations surveys

'Most unpopular leader'

Pope fever converts Sydney into city of piety, fellowship

SYDNEY—IT'S KNOWN AS THE GAY capital of the Asia Pacific, the "Emerald City" of wealth and greed within Australia and to locals as a work-hard, play-hard metropolis.

But thanks to the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI and hundreds of thousands of Catholic pilgrims, Sydney this week has been transformed into a city of Christian piety and fellowship.

Nuns, priests and monks in garb not worn in Australia for decades are roaming the streets, young people are wearing T-shirts and badges reading "Jesus loves me" and the streets are ringing with impromptu sing-alongs.

Public transport is filled by the 215,000 foreign and Australian pilgrims, many draped in their national flags, while the city's biggest central park is home to temporary confessional booths for those who need to relieve their sins.

Giant digital "prayer wall" screens have been placed at busy city meeting points while, each day, Benedict sends the visitors a text message to encourage them during their July 15-20 pilgrimage.

"Everybody is so ... I don't know how to say it ... we just feel so loved," said 16-year-old Nicole Isasi, a pilgrim from California. "Everybody loves each other." World Youth Day spokesperson Fr. Mark Podesta predicted this week would see "an ocean of happy, singing excited peo-

POPE FEVER A6

GMA trust ratings plunge to negative 38

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S PUBLIC support ratings plunged last month to a record low, making her the most unpopular leader in the country since democracy was restored in 1986, the Social Weather Stations said in a survey released yesterday.

The SWS found that only 22 percent of Filipinos were satisfied with the President's performance while 60 percent were dissatisfied, in a poll conducted in the last week of June.

The net satisfaction rating—the difference between those satisfied and dissatisfied—plunged to negative 38 points from negative 26 in March, according to the 2nd Quarter 2008 Social Weather Survey.

Ms Arroyo's record-low ratings reached across all regions and socioeconomic classes, with Filipinos belonging to the upper-to-middle class ABC "just as dissatisfied now" as the "masa" class D.

The President registered record dissatisfaction even in the Visayas, the region where she draws the most support, and Mindanao.

The SWS also noted that this was the first time that dissatisfaction was at "majority levels" in all areas. It was 60 percent in Metro Manila, 62 percent in Mindanao, 60 percent in Luzon outside Metro Manila and 56 percent in the Visayas.

Vice President Noli de Castro said the dip in approval ratings may be due to decisions that the President has made that the public may not have favored.

"But to say that she does not work, well, I am witness to how hard she works. Sometimes we give up on the work but she doesn't. She always says we should exert double effort because we have barely two years remaining in our term," he told reporters.

Secretary Cerge Remonde, head of the Presidential Management Staff, said the President's low public satisfaction rating was to be expected because of the high prices of rice and fuel which the people have blamed on her.

Although the President re-

MOST A8

'Toxic cargo could start leaking any time'



LEAKING THE BAD NEWS Dr. Berglind, European Union assessment expert toxicologist, announces at a press conference on Friday his team's findings on the marine and health hazards in the waters of Sibuyan Island, the site of the wreck of the MV Princess of the Stars.

TOXIC PESTICIDES INSIDE THE hull of the sunken MV Princess of the Stars could start leaking any time, European Union experts warned yesterday.

Their findings showed "no observable oil sheen or environmental pollution" so far but they warned this could soon change.

The United Nations and the EU sent a three-man team of toxicologists to assess possible environmental damage from the pesticide endosulfan, which was intended for pineapple plantations of Del Monte Philippines and can be lethal to humans.

Releasing the findings, Transportation Undersecretary Maria Elena Bautista, who concurrently heads Task Force MV Princess of the Stars,

TOXIC A15



THAT SINKING FEELING There's no assurance the packaging of endosulfan will hold after more than a month. It is usually stored inside a fiberboard drum.

Bishops told: Get real, visit Tondo

By Frank Cimatu
In Baguio City
and TJ Burgonio
In Manila

BAGUIO CITY—CATHOLIC bishops should visit Tondo in Manila to see the actual effect of their "blind" stance on population and family planning, according to backers of the reproductive health bills pending in Congress.

In a statement on Wednesday, lawyer Rita Padilla, executive director of the nongovernment organization EnGen-

BISHOPS A15

Man who shot, cooked eagle surrenders

By Jocelle R. Batilla
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE ANGRY DAtus performed rites to find the murderer. The murderer had no choice but to surrender.

The man who shot and then cooked a Philippine Eagle, an endangered species, last week has surrendered.

Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) director Dennis Salvador said yesterday the suspect, Bryan Balicon, 22, first yielded to a tribal datu, who brought him to conservation officials in Bukidnon.

"He felt the heat. Kasi ang

MAN A8





MURDER MOST FOUL This was "Kagsabua," tribal word meaning unity, before he was cut up. Its mutilated claws (top) were found by the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Mt. Kitanglad in Bukidnon province. He was killed 3 months after he was released back into the wild following treatment for a gunshot wound.

FVR snubs Lakas-Kampi merger meet

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Vincent Cabreza

BAGUIO CITY—FOR THE SECond time, former President Fidel Ramos yesterday skipped a regional merger meeting between the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas) and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), because he was partially recovering from the removal of facial warts.

But his spokesperson, Ed Malay, also told reporters about Ramos' initial displeasure over the merger of the two administration

FVR SNUBS A8

Second FrontPage

MILF wants ARMM polls reset

But Comelec says only a law can stop it

THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) HAS ASKED the Philippine government to postpone the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) scheduled for Aug. 11.

Nigeria parades 15 RP seamen over stolen oil



GMA lowers interest on microfinance loans

UN expands food aid in Mindanao

With final SC rebuff, Koko leaves fate to SET

[illegible]

Lost COCs

[illegible]

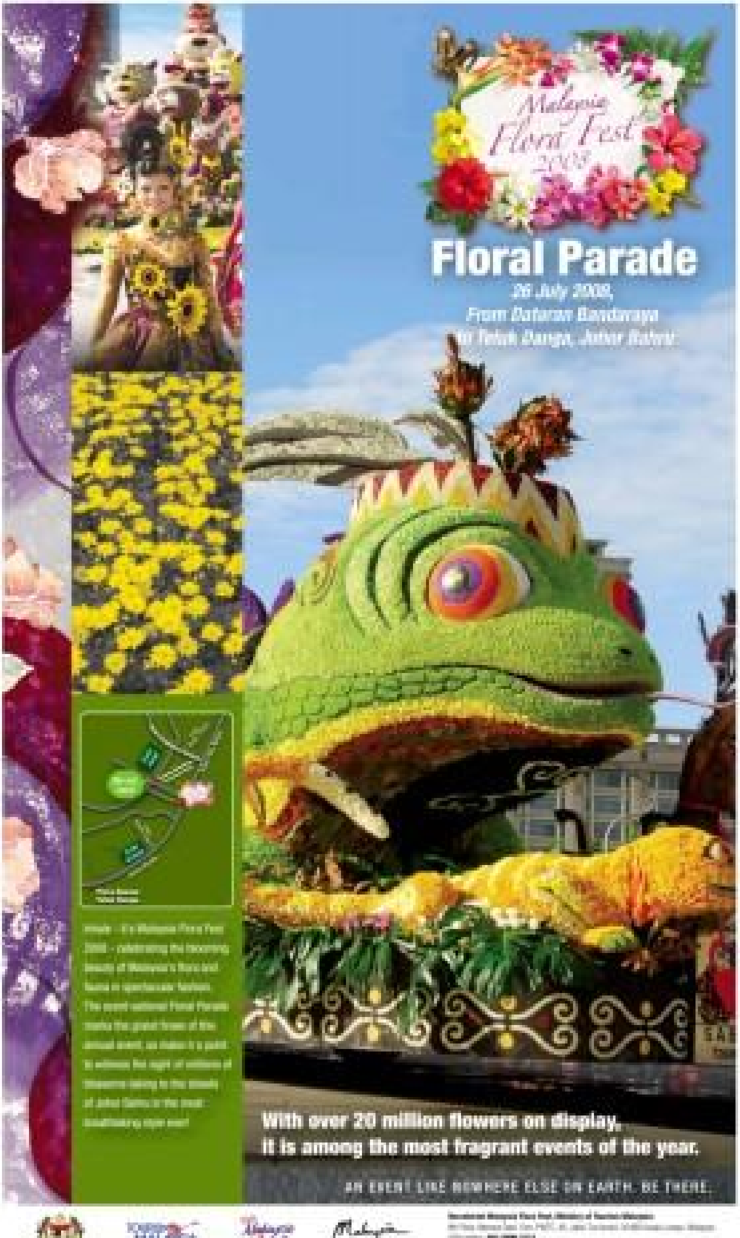
WHAT WENT BEFORE

[illegible]

AFTER COMMUTATION

Gov't hoping for pardon for Pinay

[illegible]



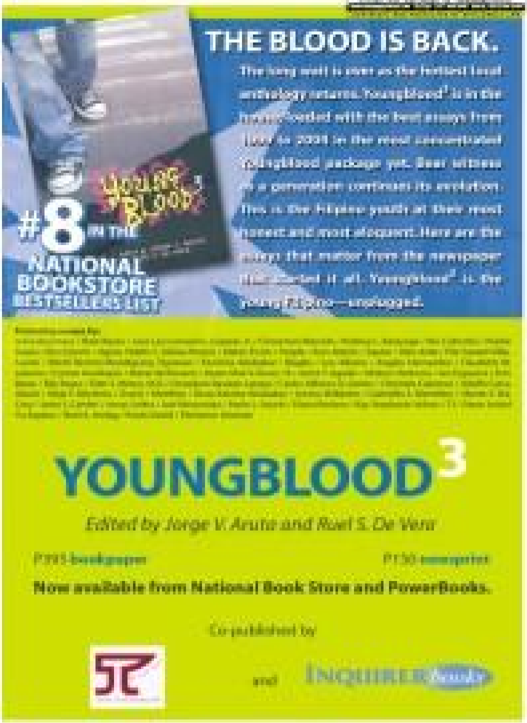
Pope tells interfaith meet that religion is a 'fundamental right'



Pope fever converts Sydney into city of piety, fellowship

The real miracle

Gas prices going up again this weekend







Napocor defends coal supply contracts

Napocor rate seen steady up to next year



MARINE ACADEMY GRADUATES

NO NEED FOR AMPARO

PNP agrees to detain suspect cop in Bicutan

Employees' rice subsidies now tax-exempt

'Most unpopular leader'

Burden of leadership



ROUSING WELCOME President Arroyo arrives on Friday for the People Government Mobile Action (PGMA) laden with goodies for the victims of "Frank" in the First District of Bulacan in Sta. Monica, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

High oil, food prices

'No mandate'

4th consecutive drop

Record lows

Across classes

FVR snubs Lakas-Kampi merger meet

Facial warts

Bottom-up

No consultation in Davao

What's in a name?

GMA's term

No lifting of VAT

Prepared for global crisis

Man who shot, cooked eagle surrenders

Critically endangered

Radio transmitters

Shot in the heart

Charges to be filed

Nurse sues Makati Med docs

By Jerome Aning

Code violation

Traumatic experience

Police stations to get P4B of P10-B upgrade

Alcuin Papa

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Another funny deal

EDITORIAL



The 'epidermalization of inferiority'

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

Estelito Mendoza's defense of Louie Gonzalez

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Filipino attitudes on sexual relations

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

Education initiatives and CSR strategies

COMMENTARY

Confessions of a senior citizen

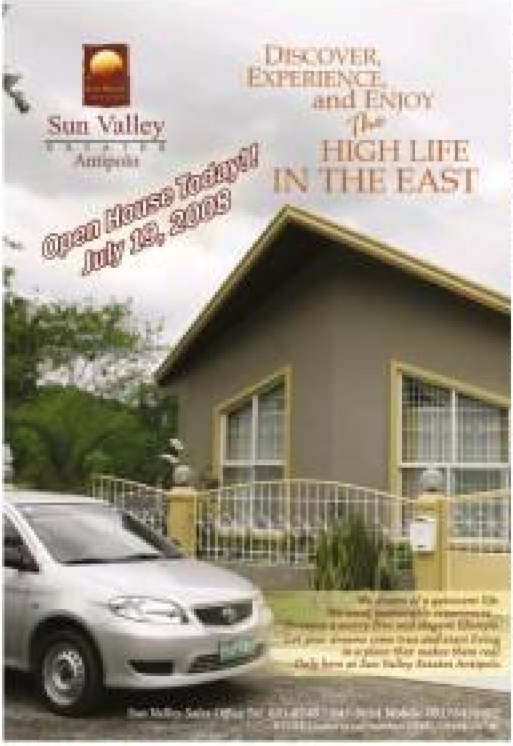
HIGH BLOOD

One choice too many

YOUNG BLOOD

LETTERS

A formidable team of lawyers for nature



100 Kwentong Peyups



LITTLE MISS FIGHTING MAROON

Full of bravado before media but meek as lamb before Congress

'Food security' project stripped of budget

Maxicare sale upheld by court, ruling now final

Require ship passengers to wear wristbands

Wickedness a fat business in the Philippines

INQUIRER Visayas

Schools keep indigenous culture alive

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

PERLA ZARAGOSA Moreno, 47, one of the last five fluent speakers of Ati language in Tina village Hamtic, Antique province, rued the little interest among the young Ati to speak and study their native tongue.

[illegible]



PANAY Bukidnon dancers perform the "binanog," a dance imitating the movements of a hawk.

Ritual leaders pray for 'Frank' victims

THE CHANTS, dances and music of performers, plaintive or celebratory, in an ongoing international conference here, have prayed for the healing of thousands of Iloilo flood victims.

[illegible]

> Bahala na was overturned to show determination and not fatalism

[illegible]

Across the NATION

Solon asks SC to schedule oral arguments on poll case



LIGHT TOUCH

Ship, port workers rally to prevent loss of jobs

Biliran execs say geothermal project welcome

Subsidy not solution, say drivers



TRANSPORT

'Toxic cargo could start leaking any time'

Please sign the contract

Phase 2

More testing

Contingency plan

'They can do more'

Solon wants to require shipowners to refloat sunken vessels

Senate seeks 'deeper' probe of Sulpicio ship

Del Monte pins blame on Sulpicio

Bishops told: Get real, visit Tondo

Right information

Not budging

Church moves

Keep the peace

El Shaddai, 'Couples' join bishops in prayer rally

March and Mass

Only prolifers invited

Philippine passports go hi-tech starting October

Globally compliant

One chip

No price yet

Green passports still valid

A plus METRO

2nd fire destroys houses near mall

Intense heat could have started new blaze, says fire marshal

By Julie M. Aurelio

SEVERAL HOUSES NEAR THE PUREGOLD PLAZA in Pasay City caught fire early yesterday morning, hours after firefighters put out the main blaze in the mall, apparently because of the intense heat.

Though hampered by narrow alleys in the neighborhood, firefighters managed to put out the second fire.

Some 20 houses made of light materials and concrete were reported damaged as a result of the blaze.

Senior Supt. Sofia Mendoza, district fire marshal, said the fire was likely caused by a "transfer of heat" from the walls of the closed Puregold Plaza, located at the corner of Taft Avenue and Libertad Street, to the houses beside it, as the structures were made of light materials.

Senior Supt. [illegible], Pasay City fire marshal, said the fire began at 3:40 a.m. Firefighters declared a fire out at 5:27 a.m.

In a phone interview, Mendoza said a curtain in one of the houses caught fire and caused the blaze to spread to other houses.

Residents claimed burning debris and embers fell on their roofs when the mall was burning the night before.

The second blaze started some three hours after firefighters declared a fire out at the Puregold Plaza.

Some 23 firefighters suffered from smoke inhalation.

Cracks

Though there was still smoke from the building yesterday, firefighters worried more about cracks in the building than the blaze re-starting.

Mendoza said the flames weakened the structure resulting in the cracks that could cause the burned building to collapse.

She said they warned everyone around the area to be careful and to leave at the first sign of danger.

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad already ordered the evacuation of 30 families living behind the Puregold Plaza after reports of a possible collapse circulated.

Evacuation center

The 30 families from Donato St. had already moved to Zamora Elementary School before the second fire destroyed several houses yesterday morning.

Trinidad ordered the Pasay Search and Rescue, Barangay Action Center, City Health and Social Welfare departments to launch a relief operation to assist the affected families.

Pasay City [illegible] chief [illegible] Andrada said the city engineering office was concerned that the wall fronting Donato St. would collapse following the mall fire.

The Barangay 54 gym on Donato St. has also been readied as an evacuation site should the Puregold Plaza collapse completely.

The Bureau of Fire Protection in southern Metro Manila has yet to make an official estimate of damage as arson investigators have just begun searching for evidence to determine the cause of the first fire.

Second mall fire

The Puregold fire on Thursday, with losses estimated at P50 million, was the second mall fire in Pasay City this year.

In January, a 50-hour fire razed the [illegible] mall in Parañaque City, destroying more than P100 million worth of goods.

Illegal QC slaughterhouse ordered closed

By Marlon Ramos

QUEZON CITY MAYOR FELICIANO Belmonte Jr. ordered yesterday the closure of an illegal slaughterhouse inside Nepa-Q Mart in [illegible], Cubao.

Belmonte instructed Supt. [illegible], chief of the city hall police detachment, to implement immediately the closure order against Mark-Q Slaughterhouse at the basement of the public market.

The mayor said the establishment clearly violated the Quezon City Revenue Code of 1993 by operating without the necessary permits.

"It is hereby directed the operation of Mark-Q Slaughterhouse ... be stopped and the establishment be closed, for the maintenance and operation of a slaughterhouse [illegible]

Manila to file charges vs councilor

Public school teachers may soon get allowances

MetroBriefs

Valenzuela has new City Hall

Man shoots neighbor with improvised gun

Las Piñas for arts and culture

Rogelio Dizon; 40



Illegal QC . . .

Conscience best guide in family planning

On Target

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Anwar refuses to give DNA sample

Tributes to Mandela on his 90th birthday



MANDELA

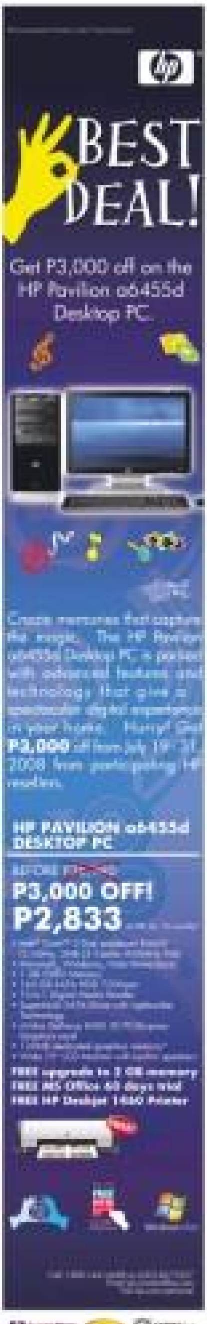
WORLDBRIEFS

ICC prosecutor won't back down on Bashir

S. Korea considering suspending tours to North

With this fake wife, I divorce thee

The WORLD



Court rules for 5 suspects in Madrid train bombings

MADRID, SPAIN—A SPANISH COURT OVERTURNED the convictions of four men and upheld the acquittal of a fifth on Thursday in the convoluted legal proceedings relating to the 2004 Madrid commuter train bombings that killed 191 people in the deadliest attack by Islamic militants on European soil.

AFP

Near shootout in Thai-Cambodian border dispute



AP



US eyes diplomatic post in Iran

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Rocco survives brutal day /A25



SPORTS

19 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

Air21 to go all-Pinoy in Game 1

By Musong R. Castillo

ANTIPOLO—STEVEN THOMAS was the biggest reason why Air21 made it to the semifinals outright, a first for the franchise.

[illegible]

Fil-Am deadline

[illegible]



LOOSE BALL [illegible] (front) of the Magnolia Beverage Masters loses the handle on the dribble after running into the defense of Coca-Cola Tigers guard Alex Cabagnot.

[illegible]

Dottie does it again; Yee, Ilas go pffft

Ardina triumphs in playoff for 3rd Junior World title

SAN DIEGO—DOTTIE ARDINA almost lost this Junior World trophy yet again.



Liga thriller: Ilocos five turns back Meteors

Morales, Ganoy, Batawang in 'Collision' today



Jazul to the rescue as Knights nip Altas

Eagles try win formula vs Maroons

Narvasa tells refs: No calls that will alter game results

'TOUR'-MOIL

Italian star Ricco 3rd dope test casualty

Hamilton tops German GP practice

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE: Angelo Que writes from Royal Birkdale

Strong finish puts weekend stint within reach



Rocco survives brutal day

Mediate, 2 others share British Open first-round lead

Norman up





Yao makes comeback, scores 11

Future stars strut wares in SBP league



SPORTS

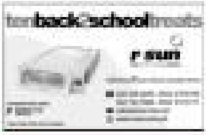
Makati girl booters fall in semis



MAKATI Football Club's seven-a-side 12-and-under squad celebrates lifting the Costa Blanca Cup in Spain.

Costa Blanca winners' Gothia Cup streak ends

Unibikers, Sharks clash for finals slot



BUSINESS



Peso stages a comeback at 44.46

Currency's close said to be its highest in 4 weeks

By Michelle V. Remo

ENCOURAGED BY THE Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' move to hike interest rates, the peso yesterday recovered from the drop caused by rising inflation, moving back to the 44-to-a-dollar territory.

Before closing at 44.46 against the US dollar, the peso hit an intra-day high of 44.44 …

IN THIS ISSUE

High inflation won't be easing soon, says IMF

HIGH INFLATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO …

Currencies



Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Shares close 0.2% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.2 percent …



₱9.12B worth of RTBs sold

Treasury expects demand to get stronger

By Michelle V. Remo

[illegible]

7-Eleven eyes 400 stores

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucero

[illegible]



BASIC ENERGY-MPIC BIOFUELS ACCORD INKED

[illegible]

Toledo copper mine to start commercial production

By Amy R. Remo

[illegible]

Philodrill resumes oil production

By Abigail L. Ho

[illegible]

[illegible]

MRT 3 to boost capacity, won't be raising fare

Gov't will go on subsidizing passenger fares 'for now'

SM more than lives up to its civic commitment

CORPORATE CITIZEN



SMFI UNDERTAKES "Gamot Para sa Kapwa," a medicine drive that is done in tandem with the foundation's health advocacy team.

Providing comfort

Health advocacy

Mall-based programs

Special programs

Berong, BHP in talks over nickel supply deal

Shares close . . .

High inflation . . .

Peso stages a comeback at 44.46

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Hospital asks patients to be inquisitive



INTIMIDATED BY BUSY doctors who seem to scowl at patients who ask too many questions? Are you the type who would just accept everything—lock, stock and barrel—is an important diagnostic result? Are you apprehensive of probing your doctor about a drug that he or she prescribed to you?

Patient empowerment

Programs launched

No ifs or buts in preventing diabetes

CarePlus



Angelo Palmones

Negative effects

Very preventable disease

Unique, one-stop shop

Philips provides healthcare solutions



RUSCKOWSKI

Healthcare solutions

Healthcare acquisitions

Antihypertension drug launched

Lowering blood pressure

Strong commitment

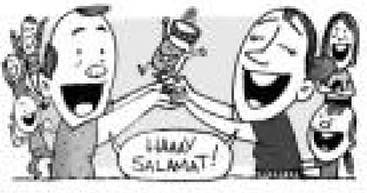
Combination therapy

Is Korean-made pain reliever the safer choice?



Cheaper medicines a healing balm

Medical Files



Behind the black wool

Discover



Clear saves relationships



LTFRB CELEBRATES 21ST ANNIVERSARY



THE ST. FRANCIS SHANGRI-LA PLACE TOPS OFF



SECURITY BANK WINS THE ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Ateneo hosts confab on public health, medicine

Mindoro confirms mineral presence

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

7 reasons to buy property now

By Tessa R. Salazar



DO YOU EVER REALIZE that the money you throw on fuel could be your monthly amortization for a home? Here are top seven reasons you should invest.

1 Property's still the best investment out there. "The stock market is very volatile for people who are looking for a place to invest or where to put their money. It's still real estate. It will still appreciate in value," said Bobby Dizon, vice president of BPI Bank's mortgage banking division. He added that even if people already have houses and still have money to spend, it would still be wise to invest in property. They can sell it later on.

2 Government housing loan provider Pag-Ibig has competitive rates now, making homes more affordable to Filipinos.

"Make the most of what we can offer now," said Rafael Oden M. Abalos III, vice president of Loans Organization Group of the Pag-Ibig Mutual Fund. "We still have our low interest rates and we encourage Pag-Ibig members to avail of our housing program now."

According to him, despite the global pressure of increased interest rates, Pag-Ibig does not react overnight to such increases. "We consider the impact on our members," he added.

[illegible]

[illegible]

3 A roof-over-your-head principle. "The family will always want a house over anything else," Dizon said. "That's why we have a lot of overseas Filipinos working abroad and the first thing in their mind is to buy a house and a car," he explains.

4 Buy while still low. Alejandro S. Mañalac, president of the National Real Estate Association, revealed that developers are increasing their prices. "The soaring prices of major construction materials are eating up developers' margins. If buyers will just compare, the 10 to 20 percent increase that the developers are planning to implement is not even enough since the prices of steel and cement have practically doubled since last May. Those who are constructing their own houses can relate to this."

5 Cut back on travel cost. Eduardo M. Alunan, president of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, said that whether oil prices are high or low, investing in property under the present environment should be made a priority. Location, especially factoring in the proximity to the workplace, has always been a major factor in order to save in travel costs in and around Metro Manila.

6 Borrow now. "I would advise people to borrow now.

7 REASONS B2



AMPHIBIOUS homes rest on land but can rise to the water level

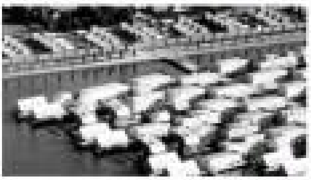
How the Dutch are coping with climate change

GREEN ARCHITRENDS
Amado P. de Jesus Jr.

New challenge

Green strategies

What can we do?



DUTCH architects and engineers are working on ambitious plans to build floating farms, industrial plants and cities to cope with rising sea level.



SOUTHERN charm in the midst of a modern landscape

Brittany's Georgia Club on the rise

Growth all over

Intact nature reserve



HEALTH buff or not, the Georgia Club pool is a real refreshing treat.

7 reasons to buy property now

7 Search for the best home financing rate available. Go where you can find the best rates available because the rates won't hold for long, Daniel said.

More world-class infrastructure rises at 67-hectare complex

Trade convention center

RP's largest shopping mall

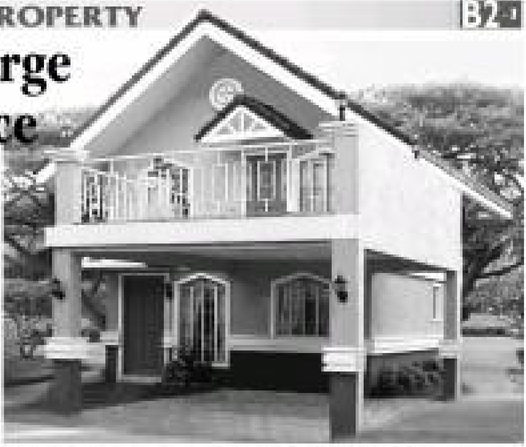
Integrated urban center

Hotels



MALL of Asia seen from the Bay

Relocate and recharge in Laguna province



OAKWOOD model house

By Charles E. Buban

LAGUNA PROVINCE, A MERE two-hour drive from Metro Manila, enjoys an abundance of natural resources that include water, great mountains and lake views as well as fresh air.

[illegible]

Accessibility

[illegible]

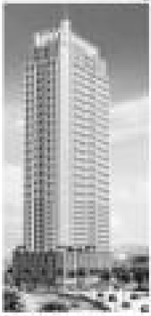
Popular

[illegible]

High growth areas

[illegible]

Living the urban life with style at Eastwood LeGrand 2



EXPECT a truly cosmopolitan lifestyle at Eastwood LeGrand 2.

WHEN ONE THINKS OF NEW York City, people think more than just the landmark buildings [illegible]

A new enclave

[illegible]

Amenities

[illegible]

Commitment

[illegible]

Illumina bringing 'comfort' to comfort zone

THE CITY OF MANILA'S ENDURING attributes [illegible]

Towering condo

[illegible]

Scandinavian architecture

[illegible]



LIVING areas are styled with clean lines, for a look that projects contemporary minimalism.



ILLUMINA Residences Manila's swimming pool

Amenities

[illegible]

Always worry-free

[illegible]





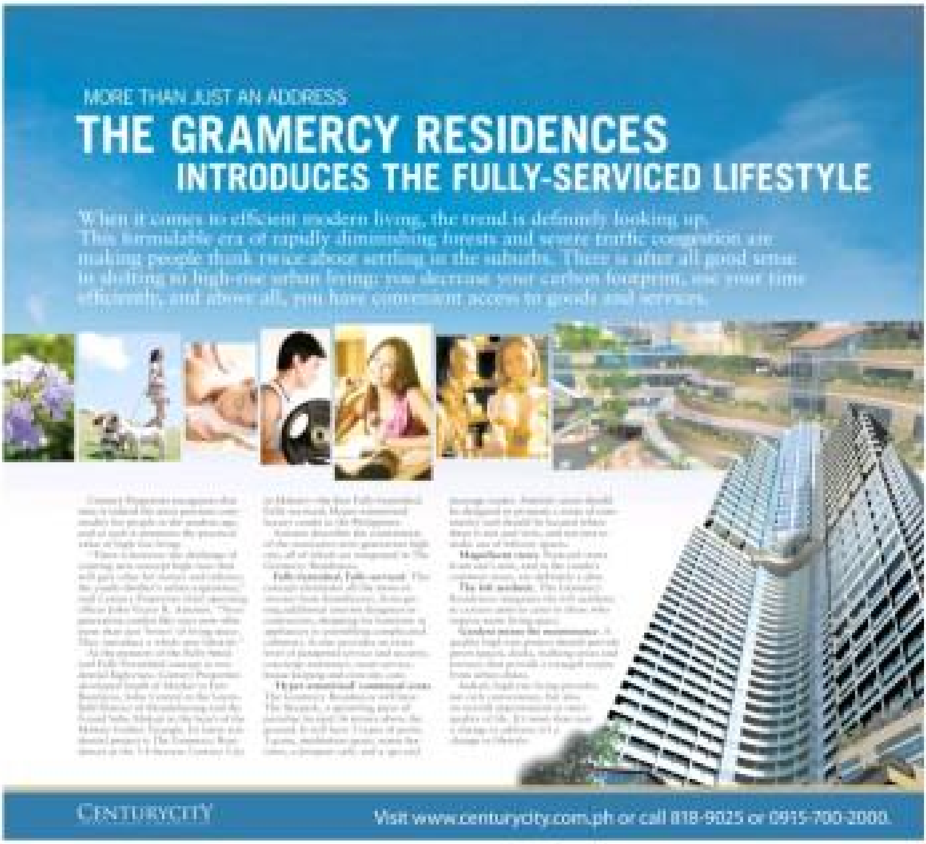


THE DANIELLA

Suburban living in Fairview

'Crown Jewel in the North'

5-model homes



Super LifeStyle

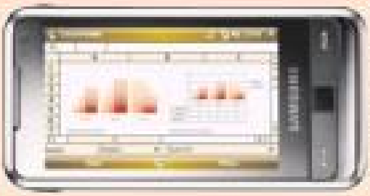


Touch-screen phone face-off

Companies are scrambling to make the best touch-screen phone—that's great news for us consumers

By Pam Pastor

[illegible]



Samsung's Omnia

Touch-screen phone face-off





Sony Ericsson's Xperia X1



Apple's iPhone 3G

LG's Secret

Liberty City, Here I Come:



FOR A FEW TENSE MOMENTS BACK there, Grand Theft Auto IV



FOR MORE REVIEWS pick up GAME!



24/7 SUPER Radar

Lomo exhibit

Julius Babao art auction



WATCH Lifehouse live

Lifehouse in concert

Wedding fair

Energy-saving and shock-proof Asus Eee PC





LIGHT AND PORTABLE: The Asus Eee PC 900



The trouble with girls

A look into the psyche of a creative Filipino male

By Wanggo Gallaga

MORE THAN BEING A novel, Alan Navarra's "Girl Trouble" is a journey into the depths of a young, creative and painfully hip Filipino male mind. It's about the thought processes of Robin, a young man from the province who has joined Manila's urban workforce.

The book is a look into his psyche as he navigates through the city and its denizens, trying to understand the often unpredictable opposite sex in what may very well be a modern, albeit jaded, quest for love.

The book deviates from the story-telling techniques of most books. "Girl Trouble" is not a straight-up story. It begins with a one-page radio script, with some mass market radio station DJ doing his spiel after song lyrics before segueing into a rapid-fire prose narration of Robin himself.

After two pages of this, we go to a poem before we see the first digitally enhanced black and white photo and then a dialogue between the protagonist and his friends, in script form. It reads like a post-modern, hip poem.

There are more scripted parts of people talking to each other. There are more digitally manipulated B&W photos, mock playlists detailing what he's listening to, illustrations and story boards. It's an almost dizzying foray into all the possible mediums of print but put together, they end up chronicling the life of Robin based on his thoughts.

This is the most extreme version of first-person narrative.

Jumping from Filipino to English with graceful ease (and sometimes Ilonggo), the book is about Robin's thoughts through and through. Most amazingly is how Navarra captures the surrealistic quality of dreams when Robin shares these with us and how he captures the playful banter of people, whether it's between friends or lovers. Early in the book, Robin is having a drinking session with his friends and, like friends do, ask hypothetical questions like who would you rather sleep with and both choices are people you would never sleep with in the first place. They dissect their college experiences with the self-assurance provided by the present and then, out of the blue, ask personal questions without provocation.

Be warned: much like the vocabulary of most Filipino male young adults, there are tons of curse words and vulgarities, but they are part and parcel of the book's reflection on the male condition at that age. There is a lot of frustration and anger in Robin; he details his strategy in getting a girl, whether in written swath, in bed and while they are in the act of sex, details his exact thoughts of her in a monologue. He



MIXED MEDIUM Page 1 of "Girl Trouble"

exerts so much effort only to regret it later. Robin wants everything but will settle for whatever he can get. The book is powerful because it is brutally honest in its portrayal of its main character, ambitious yet already defeated by the rigors of the everyday struggle. It doesn't pull punches in presenting a not-so-typical young Filipino today.

The book manages to explore the wants and needs, the very nature of a not-so-typical young Filipino man, and by doing so, ends up exploring the mysteries of what he constantly pines for—the opposite sex.

Inventive and real, Alan Navarra's "Girl Trouble" is a brave and bold new work with the contemporary reader in mind. The cover warns that parental guidance is advised for explicit content but it doesn't warn you of an engrossing reading experience. But I guess Navarra didn't want to give it away too soon.



Still Bound for Boracay?

EVEN DURING THE WET SEASON, BORACAY is still a much-loved destination by many who are looking to escape from the stranger half of city living. Off-season, Boracay becomes a peaceful and serene haven for those looking to truly relax and recuperate. The stormy giants may be up, but the beach is still inviting and one can still enjoy the allure of its powdery white sand.

The Tides, one of the biggest and trendiest hotels in the island, is offering special promos for those who are still Boracay bound during the rainy days. For only P7,900 per person guests can enjoy 3 days and 2 nights stay at The Tides, inclusive of airfare via Seair. It's a weekend getaway with a summer feel during Boracay's most relaxing season.

Promo is valid from June 1, 2008 to October 15, 2008, and valid for fare offering only. Call 7259411 or 7259290 or visit www.tidesboracay.com for more information or to book.





Super LifeStyle



The medium is the madness

In a Photoshop-obsessed culture, one design group gets back to art basics by doing things dirty—literally

By-product



Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Tropicana Apartment Hotel celebrates 40 years of warm, personalized service



PETER DRAWS HAPPINESS FROM CHILDREN THROUGH ART

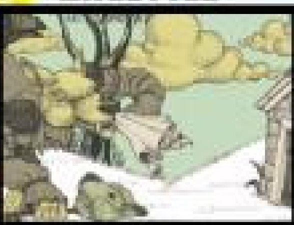
Marco Polo Davao upgrades rooms, suites to mark 10th year

CENTURY PARK HOTEL HONORS 2007 TOP ACCOUNTS



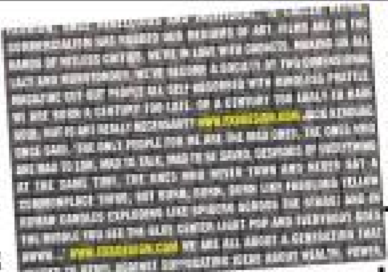
Waterfront Manila Pavilion welcomes new executive chef







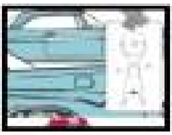
The medium is the madness















Balance

Tours, Leisure & Chow



Spa treatments and services at its finest

The Richmonde Grill's Dinner Exclusives for July





Family Sunday Brunch at M2M

Astoria Plaza's afternoon delight

Sweet escape at The Bellevue







This gerbil is into graffiti

Armed with spray paint, The Killer Gerbil hits the streets of Singapore and transforms everything into art







Icon

Painting cars



2BU

LIFESTYLE

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Subsection Editor Pam Pastor



Notebook art makes waves

Doodling in class can take you far—just ask Anna Avanceña and her Moleskine artworks







By Pam Pastor



THE ARTIST Anna Avanceña

Rich and vivid

Arts and crafts



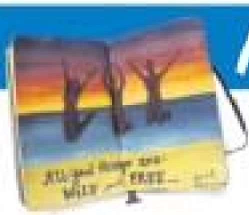






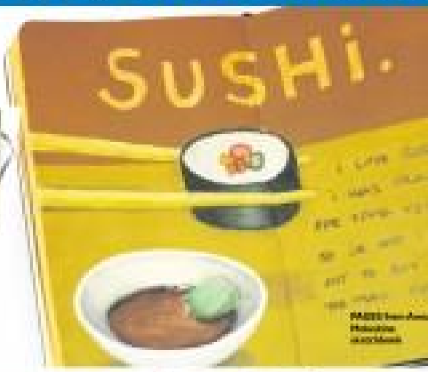


Notebook art makes wav



















Lip-synching is a talent

New stuff, cool stuff

Some things we are loving and we think you'd love them too





Krispy Kreme's Brew Box

Coca-Cola Olympic Games Glasses from McDonald's



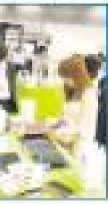
Pizza Hut's Cheesy Pops N' Dip Pizza

Time for some

GROWING UP IS NOT AN excuse to stop enjoying toys, especially now that you don't have to beg your parents to buy you one.

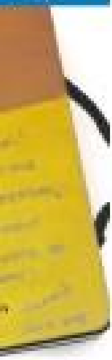
Dolls Stories

Lovelyh's Legos



PEOPLE ...

Painting on her notebook's pages is just one of Anna's many creative outlets.



...ves



...e toys

Tales from a concert tour





The UPCC shares its experiences while performing for audiences abroad

Like celebrities

Squabbles





2bU LifeStyle

Pocket full of style

By [illegible]







ON THE path to ready-to-wear stardom

Sassa Jimenez crafts clothes with a twist

STUDYING a two-year fashion design course at Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles and graduating cum laude might very well have put Sassa Jimenez on the path to ready-to-wear stardom, but the 21-year-old lady is taking baby steps.

"I have so many plans, for re-thinking them," says this busy designer, who is carefully crafting her 19-piece collection. "I definitely want to have my own store."

Her innovative application of clothing techniques, including hand sewing seven yards of fabric into a skirt, origami folding and draping, and incorporating pockets, yields surprises. "Pockets are hidden," she says about her obsession. "If I could put pockets in everything, I would!"

Her designs are seemingly playful. "My designs are inspired usually by how I'm feeling at that moment."

But each style also blends effortlessly in anyone's closet, using palettes of pastel pink and cream and edgier black and grey. "I create clothes that people would want to feel like themselves in and [clothes] that they don't feel too plain wearing. Because that is a problem, people wear too much of the same thing — too much of the same color. I would like to put a twist on it and something different, so that they can feel proud to wear it."



"I DEFINITELY want to have my own store," says Sassa Jimenez



SASSA has a knack for draping and origami folding

Street dance tilt launched



Urban wear inspired by cinema





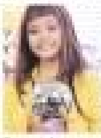
Filthy Grommet

These young entrepreneurs are poised for the big time, with fashion designs worth raiding



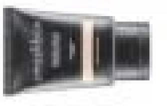


Sophomore is Hannah Montana winner



Prime, then prep

Applying primer before makeup ensures that you will be retouching less







Fresh batch

Standout product







What's on Your Nokia 5310 XpressMusic Playlist?



Nokia 5310 XpressMusic held a series of private playlist parties designed to get music lovers to share what's in their 5310 music player. Now available in hot blue, plus the hot, new colors of black and candy gothic pink - the fresh color range served as a backdrop to the range of music genres, beginning with rock and hiphop.

The Rock playlist party was held at Saguijo last June 20 and hosted by Raimund Marasigan and Diego Mapa of Pedicab, Gabby Alipe of Urbandub, Kevin Roy of Razorback, Francis Reyes of The Dawn and the legendary Joey Pepe Smith.

The night's performances included a diverse set of songs, with covers of LCD Soundsystem's Daft Punk is Playing in my House, Sade's No Ordinary Love and Led Zeppelin's Whole Lotta Love. To complete the scene, Wawi Navarroza shot portraits of the rock icons in full glory.





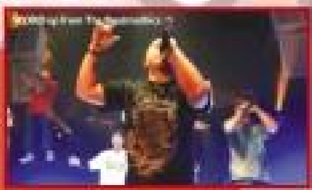



The Nu Hiphop playlist party opened Warehouse 135 last July 05. Beatmakers, composed of ..., and D-Coy performances that got the crowd pumped up. The playlist included tracks from Lupe Fiasco (Kick Push) and Will.i.am (Jump).

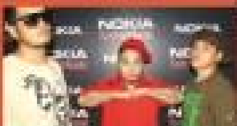
Visual monolith Cabgrit captured the collaboration between music and art with live graffiti.

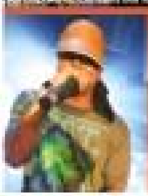
Nokia 5310 XpressMusic is loaded with ... And you can store up to 3,000 songs with the optional 4gb microSD card. Now that's a whole lot of tracks in your playlist. Whether it's rock or hiphop, just play it loud.











15 minutes with two Asian princes

2bU! hears it straight from Wu Chun and Calvin Chen, two-fourths of the hit singing group Fahrenheit



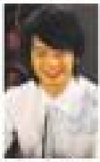
A PLAYFUL Wu Chun



CALVIN Chen and his famous smile

Wu Chun (or Wu Zun)

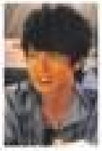
Fan Facts:
Height: 181 cm
Weight: 73 kg
Zodiac Sign: Libra
Previous jobs: model, basketball player



CALVIN CHEN

Calvin Chen

Fan Facts:
Height: 184 cm



WU CHUN

By Arlene Paredes
Photos courtesy of ABS-CBN's Corporate Communication Department



SATURDAY *Special*

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo



Mariah Carey balances *frivolity* with *gravity* in latest album

By Rito P. Asilo

Hooks and beats

Career single

'Care Home' merely hints at Nora Aunor's exceptional talent

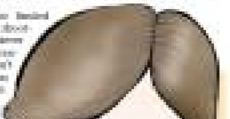
By Nestor U. Torre

Intimate drama



AUNOR (right) with Gloria Sevilla

Merits



STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

Grads aim for greater goals

Dreams



VILLAR. Inspiring words.

Drive rainy-day blues away with 'Mamma Mia!'

By Monica Toro



STREEP is there anything she can't do well?

Story

Good time

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	2 THE DARK KNIGHT	3 WANTED	4 THE DARK KNIGHT
GLORIETTA 4	1 THE DARK KNIGHT	2 THE DARK KNIGHT	3 THE DARK KNIGHT	
	4 HANCOCK	5 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	6 THE DARK KNIGHT	7 MAMMA MIA
GREENBELT 1	1 MAMMA MIA	2 THE DARK KNIGHT		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE DARK KNIGHT	2 THE DARK KNIGHT		
	3 MAMMA MIA	4 THE DARK KNIGHT	5 THE DARK KNIGHT	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THE DARK KNIGHT	2 THE DARK KNIGHT		
	3 THE DARK KNIGHT	4 THE DARK KNIGHT	5 MAMMA MIA	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE DARK KNIGHT	2 THE DARK KNIGHT	3 MAMMA MIA	4 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE DARK KNIGHT	2 HANCOCK		
	3 MAMMA MIA	4 THE DARK KNIGHT	5 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	
TRINOMA	1 HANCOCK	2 THE DARK KNIGHT	3 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	4 MAMMA MIA
	5 THE DARK KNIGHT	6 THE DARK KNIGHT	7 THE DARK KNIGHT	

AT THE MALLS

glorietta	
Greenbelt	
Alabang Town Center	
Ayala Center Cebu	
Market! Market!	
Cinemagic	
Ayala Museum	
TriNoma	

NOW SHOWING

Eye-popping visuals buoy up sci-fi adventure





Drinking milk should be a daily habit

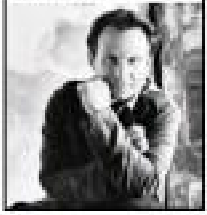


MONTAGE



ARROW OFFERS ANNIVERSARY SALE





IN THIS ISSUE
■ Upbeat moments in show biz /H4

SATURDAY Special

Two standouts in Cinemalaya's indie festival

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME FILM BUFFS have asked us to recommend movies to see in the ongoing Cinemalaya indie festival, and we hasten to respond. As of this writing, we've watched only two featured entries, but we're happy to report that both are eminently viewable.

"Brutus," by Tara Illenberger, starts off as a seemingly simple and bucolic view of the lives of Mangyans in Mindoro. Little by little, however, it shows how their existence has been made exceedingly complicated by a number of external factors that have intruded into their heretofore paradigmatic world.

Irony

Disease is on the rise, as the head of the story's focal family dies from malaria. The irony here is that he was a native healer, but his illness was so severe that he lost his fight against it.

To make things worse, greedy lowlanders kicked him out of his ancestral domain—and burned down his hut, to boot. This forces his eldest son to look for work elsewhere.

When communication with him stops, his mother has to ask her young daughter to look for him. With a young friend, the first tries to make some money transporting illegally logged lumber. This effort turns out badly, as the two young searchers have to contend with a number of dangerous situations, some of which involve soldiers and the NPA.

Compromised identity

Thus, their seemingly simple search for the girl's brother turns out to be an objective correlative for the Mangyans' search for their compromised identity today. Pollution, denudation of forests, illegal logging, landgrabbing, strife between the military and the NPA—these and other pressures and challenges assault the very core of the Mangyans' ethnic existence.

It's a marvel, indeed, that the film, whose cast includes Yul Servo and Ronnie Lazaro, still ends on an upbeat note, as the natives' age-old traditions and values manage to survive. This is illustrated by the fact that the story's two young protagonists are still able to remain true to themselves, and even to snatch a bit of happiness and love in the seething trouble that their universal land has become.

Also a distinct pleasure to watch is Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Boses," which delves into the unusual bond that unexpectedly develops between a concert violinist (Coke Bolipata) and a battered boy.

The boy, Onyok, is brought to a shelter run by the violinist's sister (Cherry Pie Picache), after his father (Ricky Davao) beat him up and used his back as an ashtray. Completely traumatized, the boy loses his voice, hence the film's ironic title.

More eloquent

It turns out, however, that the boy eventually finds another, more eloquent voice in the music he creates with the violin, which he learns to play under the master violinist's tutelage.

The film inspires because it shows that the boy isn't the only one who benefits from the relationship. The violinist is so heartened by his musical prodigy's progress and becomes so protective of him that he eventually forgets his own traumatic experience, and learns to live for others.

True, the movie is too "arty" at times, and the death of the violinist's beloved (Meryll Soriano) is too melodramatically staged—but, "Boses" compensates for these and other lapses with its stirring depiction of two losers who end up winning big.

The film is made even more compelling by the stirring performances turned in by the boy who plays Onyok, Davao, Picache—and, most of all, by Bolipata, who moves us not only with his unexpectedly feisty and insightful portrayal, but also with his musical performances, which is an overwhelming experience.

A famous musician once told us that Bolipata is one of the world's finest string artists. Now, we know why. The stunning evidence is there for all to behold to marvel at in "Boses."


"BOSES." Stirring depiction of two losers who end up winning big.

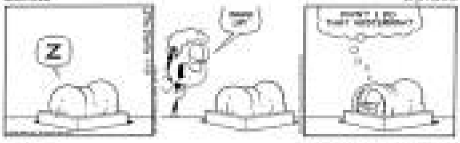


LAZARO AND SERVO: Play important roles in Tara Illenberger's "Brutus."

Comic*Relief*

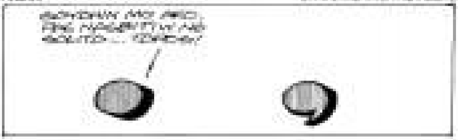
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2008

GARFIELD



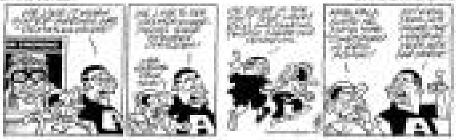
A. LIPIN



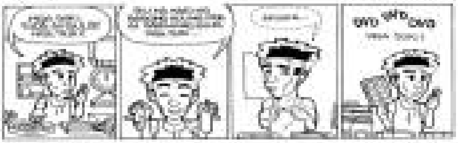


PUGAD BABOY



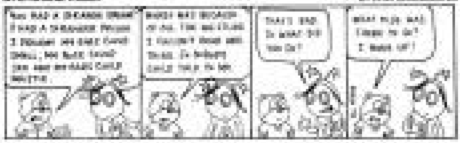






BABY BLUES

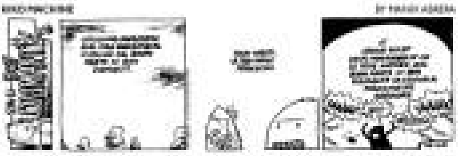




LOVESHOTS

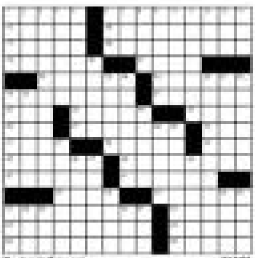


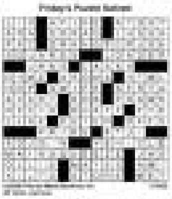
KIKO MACHINE





DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

		1			5		2	
				4	3			1
5					2			
					9	7	5	8
	8						3	
9	3	7	5					
			9					2
1			4	3				
	6		7			1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

How cavalcades, musicals changed my life



Plays

Footsteps

Mamma Mia, a star is born!



SEYFRIED: Ready for her closeup.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales



Anecdotes

Most fulfilling

The night before

View

Upbeat moments in show biz

By Nestor U. Torre



TV treats

'Storyline'